

WHO WE ARE

The Orleans County Natural Resource Conservation District (OCNRCD) was established in 1946 as a non-regulatory organization led by local landowners. We strive to protect natural resources by seeking solutions to local environmental concerns and providing resources to address them.

Our current focus is to support Orleans County communities and landowners in their efforts to improve soil and water quality. Our extensive partnerships with state, federal and local organizations enable us to coordinate resources locally to support conservation land use practices.

Staff

Sarah Damsell — District Manager

Community, Partner Engagement and Program Navigator

Abraham Ames — Conservation Specialist

Agricultural and Lakes Programs

Ted Sedell — Conservation Specialist

Natural Resource Restoration Programs

Stephen Mengel — Bookkeeper

Board of Supervisors

Tim Buzzell (Morgan) — *Chair*

Joanna Lidback (Barton) — *Treasurer*

Pat Sagui (Westfield) — *Supervisor*

Jared Nunery (Craftsbury) — *Associate Supervisor*

Brad Maxwell (Newport) — *Associate Supervisor*

Walter Medwid (Derby) — *Associate Supervisor*

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Visit our website:

vacd.org/conservation-districts/orleans-county

Visit our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Orleans-County-Conservation-District-Vermont-105246618316228/>

PARTNERS

Ben and Jerry's Foundation

Ben and Jerrys Caring Dairy Program

Cabot Creamery

The 18 towns in Orleans County

Ducks Unlimited

Local Landowners

Memphremagog Watershed Association

Missisquoi River Basin Association

The Nature Conservancy

National Association of Conservation Districts

North Country Career Center

Northeast Organic Farming Association

Northeast Vermont Economic Development Association

NorthWoods Stewardship Center

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Orleans County Lake Associations

Trout Unlimited

US Fish and Wildlife Service

USDA Farm Service Agency

USDA Rural Development

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

UVM Extension Service

Vermont Association of Conservation Districts

Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets

Vermont Association of Conservation Districts

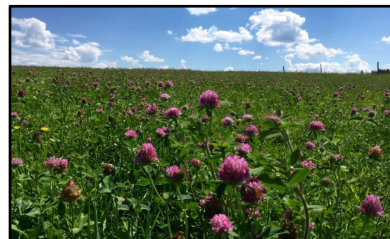
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Vermont Forest Products Association

Vermont Forest Parks & Recreation

Vermont Local Roads Program

Vermont Land Trust



District Programs & Services



Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District

Promoting sound
conservation practices
since 1946.

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION PROGRAMS

Watershed Restoration

This program focuses on improving water quality by helping landowners with floodplain, streambank and riverside property restoration and establish riparian buffers.

What are Riparian Buffers?

Riparian buffers are vegetated areas adjacent to rivers and streams that are integral to healthy river ecosystems.



Student planting trees on the Black River

We provide grant funding and technical assistance for landowners who want to stabilize river banks, filter nutrients from runoff and increase connectivity of wildlife habitat with riparian buffers. This

includes site assessment, project planning and planting trees to establish the buffer. Contact the District if you are interested in riparian buffers on your property!

Municipal Road Erosion Inventories

This program focuses on supporting towns' efforts to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff from roads. We work with VTTrans, VTDEC and town officials to inventory roads and associated structures. This includes field assessments using Road Erosion Risk Analysis mapping data, town priorities and problem areas. We produce a final report listing 8-10 priority project plans, projected budgets, and potential funding sources. Then we work with the town to implement road improvement projects.



Assistance for Farmers

Work with farmers to control soil erosion, protect water quality, improve soil health and identify opportunities for conservation around the farm, and help interpret the state's Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) and VAAFM farm certification support.

Are you interested in creating your own Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?

We have grant funding to assist with NMP development and UVM class registration fees.

- Land Treatment Planning - Farm assessments to identify vulnerable areas on your farm and fields.
- Soil and manure sampling
- Support in UVM class and assistance inputting data into GoCrop software
- Dedicated follow-up to help with adoption and maintenance of your NMP.



Local farmer & staff soil sampling

Benefits of a having a NMP:

- Save money -reduce fertilizer costs & increase productivity
- Gain a better understanding of the local ecosystem
- Helps your farm comply with the Vermont RAPs
- Creates a more positive public image for your farm by showing your efforts to improve water quality

Farm Water Protection Infrastructure Program

We offer program navigation and our own grant funding to install best management practices (BMPs) through site assessment, prioritization, facilitating access to funding, project management and technical assistance for projects such as:

- Stormwater diversions
- Waste storage improvements
- Heavy use areas, walkways and barnyards,
- Lined waterways, grade stabilization, grass waterways
- Fencing along waterways and more!

Contact the District if you are interested!

EVENTS & SERVICES

Orleans County NRCDC Annual Events

- Native Conservation Tree and Shrub Sale
A diversity of bareroot stock available. Order by April 1st. Pick up on first Saturday in May at USDA office park lot.



- Conservation Field Days
An agricultural literacy event hosted by local farmers for local 5th & 6th grade student
- Community Workshops
A variety of events focused on natural resource related topics.

Equipment Rentals

- Portable skidder bridge — \$100/month fee to protect stream banks at logging equipment crossings
- AerWay — \$6/acre fee and assistance with accessing grant funds for 20ft aerator tiller to increase manure and water infiltration.
- Portable truck scales - \$50 per use; use scales to weigh manure spreader, harvest truck, or round bales to more accurately determine manure application rates and harvest yields
- No till drill - \$7/acre fee and assistance with accessing grant funds for 10 ft no-till drill to establish cover crop, rotate or convert annual crops to perennial crops, and improve hay or pasture



Professional Services Offered to Landowners

- Farm employee water quality trainings
- Nutrient Management Plan updates
- On farm and watershed wide water quality monitoring
- Soil and manure sampling and pre-side dress soil nitrate test sampling
- Soil health assessments, testing and conservation planning
- Map making
- Landscaping for wildlife consultations
- Grant writing and administrative support for land owners and municipalities
- Invasive species education and eradication assistance